operators, seeking large profits to connect the low return in rural areas;

(c) the number of persons still awaiting for telephone connections from urban areas and small rural settlements; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for rapid extension of telephone density to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Minimum obligation to be met by private opertators for village public telephones (VPTs) is 10% of direct exchange line s to be provided by them in every quarter of a year till coverage of all villages in the licensed service area. A weightage of 15% (Max.) was earmarked to provide impetus for coverage of rural areas in the tender documents for award of licences.

(c) Abour 29.5 lakhs as on 31.5.98.

(d) Government proposes to install a large number of small capacity digital electronic exchanges and wireless systems in rural areas?

Appointment of Junior Accounts Officers in Department of Posts

4467. SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmentare aware of the fact that Postal employees who have qualified for Junior Accounts officers' Post from the year 1990 onwards are not given promotion for want of vacancies in the Postal Department;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of Junior Accounts Officers' Posts are vacant in the Department of Telecommunications for want of qualified hands; and

(c) if so, whether Government will come forward to appoint persons who qualified for Postal Department in the Telecommunication Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAJTONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department of Telecom, may take qualified JAOs from other Departments/Organisations including Department of Posts on deputation basis if sufficient number of candidates in the Department of Telecom, do not qualify the JAO (Telecom.) Examinaton.

Financial Burden on Account of DOT's Conversion into An Operating Company

4468. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have calculated the immediate financial burden which will have to be incurred by Govenrment if the DoT is converted into an operating company; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Preliminary exercises with regard to possible restructuring options for separation of the service providing arm of the Department of Telecom from the Ministry, including financial implications have been made. No final decision has, however, been taken in the matter.

Conversion of Manual Telephone Exchanges into Electrl$nic Exchanges

4469. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert mannual telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) There is no mannual Telephone exchange in Karnataica.

(b) Docs not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) Docs not arise.

Measures Proposed to Make Department of Telecom Self Reliant

4470. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecom, is a burden on the exchequer;

(b) if so, their expected liabilitv on Centre during this year; and

(c) the measures proposed to make the Department self reliant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAITONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. In fact Department of Telecom has been making significant contributions to the exchequer over the years.

(d) and (c) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

राजस्थान में टेलीफोन कनैक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षासूची में व्यक्ति

4471. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत**: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 31 मार्च, 1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार राजस्थान में टेलीफोन कनैक्शनों के लिए जिले वार प्रतीक्षा सूची में कुल व्यक्तियों की संख्या क्या है; और

(ख) प्रतीक्षा सूची में दर्ज इन व्यक्तियों को टेलीफोन कनेक्शन कब तक मिलने की संभावना है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) 31.3.1998 तक की स्थिति के अनुसार, राजस्थान में टेलीफोन कनैक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा सूचीमें व्यक्तियों की जिलेवार कुल संख्या विवरण में दी गई है (नीचे देखिए)।

(ख) कुल 138239 व्यक्तियों की प्रतीक्षा सूची में से, दूरस्थ ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कुछ अव्यवहार्य तथा लम्बी दूरी के कनैक्शनों को छोड़कर अधिकांश प्रतीक्षा सूची का चालू वित्त वर्ष के दौरान निपटान कर दिया जाएगा।

विवरण

क्रम सं.	जिले का नाम	31.3.98 तक की स्थिति के अनुसार प्रतीक्षा सूची
1	अजमेर	14546
2	अलवर	4442
3	बांसवाड़ा	651
4	बरान	496
5	बारमेर	1925
6	भरतपुर	3419
7	भीलवाड़ा	7370
8	बीकानेर	4992
9	बूंदी	831
10	चितौड़गढ़	2612
11	चुरू	3917
12	दौसा	2793
13	धौलपुर	501
14	ढुंगरपुर	1499
15	हनुमानगढ़	4889
16	जयपुर	13436
17	जैसलमेर	326
18	जालौर	2762
19	झालावाड़	617
20	झुनझुनु	4252
21	जोधपुर	9541
22	करौली	1569
23	कोटा	4207
24	नागौर	6594
25	पाली	7554